U.S. Asks Court To Drop Partin Indictment

BATON ROUGE (AP)—The Justice Department asked U.S. District Court today to dismiss a 26-count embezzlement and forgery indictment against Edward Grady Partin, business agent for Teamsters Union Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge.

Partin turned state's evidence in the jury tampering trial of former Teamsters Boss Jimmy Hoffa, who is now in prison. Partin served as the government's star witness in the case.

U.S. ATTY. Louis LaCour of New Orleans filed the motion, saying "evidentiary problems" such as the continued absence of many of the union's books and records and the death of an important government witness had made it impossible for the government to prosecute the case.

Partin was indicted in 1962 on 13 counts of embezzling union funds and 13 counts of making false entries on union books to convert funds to his own use.

No previous attempt has been made to prosecute the indictment against Partin.

Lacour's motion also said that the "pronounced bias and prejudice of several government witnesses against the

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defendant . . . would severely detract from their credibility at trial."

Lacour said it would be impossible to prove the charges against the local Teamsters boss.

"The government further represents that even if a successful prosecution could be maintained, the interests of justice would warrant a dismissal of this charge," the motion concluded.

THE STATEMENT was not explained.

Partin was accused in the indictment of embezzling $1,657 in union funds as well as making false entries on the union books to convert additional money to his use.

Partin has been a central figure in the Baton Rouge labor field.

Early this summer, owners shut down industrial construction along the Mississippi River, putting 15,000 men out of work and bringing on a special session of the Legislature.

Partin at the time was busy organizing sand and gravel pit operators and workers on city-parish construction jobs.

The labor leader, however, denied he was the cause of the labor strife.

SINCE THEN, the Legislature, at the request of Gov. John McKeithen created a special labor - management commission on inquiry to investigate racketeering in the labor - management field in this area.

The commission has scheduled its first hearing Oct. 23 and reportedly will subpena a number of witnesses.